# Exhibit J-3

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- 619. In the course of New GM's business, it willfully failed to disclose and actively concealed the dangerous risk posed by the defects discussed above. New GM compounded the deception by repeatedly asserting that GM-branded vehicles were safe, reliable, and of high quality, and by claiming to be a reputable manufacturer that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles once they are on the road.
- 620. New GM's unfair or deceptive acts or practices were likely to and did in fact deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiffs, about the true safety and reliability of GM-branded vehicles, the quality of the GM brand, the devaluing of safety at New GM, and the true value of the class vehicles.
- 621. New GM intentionally and knowingly misrepresented material facts regarding the class vehicles with an intent to mislead Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class.
- 622. New GM knew or should have known that its conduct violated the Michigan CPA.
- 623. As alleged above, New GM made material statements about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the GM brand that were either false or misleading.
- 624. New GM owed Plaintiffs a duty to disclose the true safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the devaluing of safety at New GM, because New GM:
- (a) Possessed exclusive knowledge that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured;
  - (b) Intentionally concealed the foregoing from Plaintiffs; and/or
- (c) Made incomplete representations about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles generally, and the valve guide defects in particular, while

- 625. Because New GM fraudulently concealed the defects in the class vehicles, the value of the class vehicles has greatly diminished. In light of the stigma attached to those vehicles by New GM's conduct, they are now worth significantly less than they otherwise would be.
- 626. New GM's systemic devaluation of safety and its concealment of the defects in the class vehicles were material to Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class. A vehicle made by a reputable manufacturer of vehicles is worth more than an otherwise comparable vehicle made by a disreputable manufacturer of vehicles that conceals defects rather than promptly remedies them.
- 627. Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class suffered ascertainable loss caused by New GM's misrepresentations and its concealment of and failure to disclose material information. Plaintiffs who purchased class vehicles after the date of New GM's inception either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all. Plaintiffs did not receive the benefit of their bargain as a result of New GM's misconduct.
- 628. Regardless of time of purchase or lease, no Plaintiffs would have maintained and continued to drive their vehicles had they been aware of New GM's misconduct. By contractually assuming TREAD Act responsibilities with respect to Old GM class vehicles, New GM effectively assumed the role of manufacturer of those vehicles because the TREAD Act on its face only applies to vehicle manufacturers. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c). New GM had an ongoing duty to all GM vehicle owners to refrain from unfair and deceptive acts or practices under the Michigan CPA. And, in any event, all class vehicle owners suffered ascertainable loss in the form of the diminished value of their vehicles as a result of New GM's deceptive and unfair acts and practices made in the course of New GM's business.

- 630. Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief to enjoin New GM from continuing its unfair and deceptive acts; monetary relief against New GM measured as the greater of (a) actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial and (b) statutory damages in the amount of \$250 for Plaintiffs and each Michigan Class member; reasonable attorneys' fees; and any other just and proper relief available under MICH. COMP. LAWS § 445.911.
- 631. Plaintiffs also seek punitive damages against New GM because it carried out despicable conduct with willful and conscious disregard of the rights and safety of others. New GM intentionally and willfully misrepresented the safety and reliability of the class vehicles, deceived Plaintiffs and Michigan Class Members on life-or-death matters, and concealed material facts that only they knew, all to avoid the expense and public relations nightmare of correcting a deadly flaw in vehicles it repeatedly promised Plaintiffs and Michigan Class Members were safe. New GM's unlawful conduct constitutes malice, oppression, and fraud warranting punitive damages.

### **COUNT XXXIX**

### FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT

- 632. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 633. This claim is brought on behalf of Nationwide Class Members who are Michigan residents (the "Michigan Class").
- 634. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the quality of the class vehicles.
- 635. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the culture of New GM a culture characterized by an emphasis on cost-cutting, the

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studious avoidance of quality issues, and a shoddy design process.

- 636. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the defects in the class vehicles, and that it valued cost-cutting over quality and took steps to ensure that its employees did not reveal known defects to regulators or consumers.
- 637. New GM did so in order to boost confidence in its vehicles and falsely assure purchasers and lessors of its vehicles and Certified Previously Owned vehicles that New GM was a reputable manufacturer that stands behind its vehicles after they are sold and that its vehicles are safe and reliable. The false representations were material to consumers, both because they concerned the quality and safety of the class vehicles and because the representations played a significant role in the value of the vehicles.
- 638. New GM had a duty to disclose the defects in the class vehicles because they were known and/or accessible only to New GM, were in fact known to New GM as of the time of its creation in 2009 and at every point thereafter, New GM had superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class. New GM also had a duty to disclose because it made many general affirmative representations about the safety, quality, and lack of defects in its vehicles, as set forth above, which were misleading, deceptive and incomplete without the disclosure of the additional facts set forth above regarding defects in the class vehicles. Having volunteered to provide information to Plaintiffs, GM had the duty to disclose not just the partial truth, but the entire truth. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impact the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class.
- 639. New GM actively concealed and/or suppressed these material facts, in whole or in part, to protect its profits and avoid recalls that would hurt the brand's image and cost New GM money, and it did so at the expense of Plaintiffs and the

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- 640. On information and belief, New GM has still not made full and adequate disclosure and continues to defraud Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class and conceal material information regarding defects that exist in the class vehicles.
- Material facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the concealed and/or suppressed facts, in that they would not have purchased cars manufactured by New GM; and/or they would not have purchased cars manufactured by Old GM in the time after New GM had come into existence and had fraudulently opted to conceal, and to misrepresent, the true facts about the vehicles; and/or would not have continued to drive their vehicles or would have taken other affirmative steps. Plaintiffs' and the Michigan Class's actions were justified. New GM was in exclusive control of the material facts and such facts were not known to the public, Plaintiffs, or the Michigan Class.
- 642. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class sustained damage because they own vehicles that diminished in value as a result of New GM's concealment of, and failure to timely disclose, the defects in the class vehicles and the quality issues engendered by New GM's corporate policies. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in the class vehicles, Plaintiffs who purchased new or Certified Previously Owned vehicles after New GM came into existence either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all; and no Plaintiffs regardless of time of purchase or lease would have maintained their vehicles.
- 643. The value of all Michigan Class Members' vehicles has diminished as a result of New GM's fraudulent concealment of the defects which have tarnished the Corvette brand and made any reasonable consumer reluctant to purchase any of the class vehicles, let alone pay what otherwise would have been fair market value for the vehicles.

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652. As a direct and proximate result of New GM's breach of the implied 1 warranty of merchantability, Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class members have been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial. **COUNT XLI** 4 FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT OF THE RIGHT TO FILE A CLAIM 5 AGAINST OLD GM IN BANKRUPTCY 6 653. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein. 8 654. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are 9 Michigan residents and who owned their class vehicle for at least some period of 10 time between July 11, 2009 and November 30, 2009. 11655. New GM was aware of the defects in class vehicles sold by Old GM 12 from the moment it came into existence upon entry of the Sale Order And Sale 13 Agreement by which New GM acquired substantially all the assets of Old GM. 14 656. The Michigan Class did not receive notice of the defect in class vehicles 15 prior to the entry of the Sale Order. No recall occurred. 16 657. In September of 2009, the bankruptcy court entered the Bar Date Order, 17 establishing November 30, 2009, as the deadline (the "Bar Date") for proof of claims to be filed against Old GM. 658. Because New GM concealed its knowledge of the defect in the class 20 vehicles, the Michigan Class did not receive notice of the defect prior to the passage 21 of the Bar Date. No recall occurred. 22 659. In 2011, the bankruptcy court approved a Chapter 11 Plan under which 23 the General Unsecured Creditors' Trust ("GUC Trust") would distribute the proceed 24 of the bankruptcy sale to, among others, the holders of claims that were ultimately 25 allowed. 26 660. The out-of-pocket consideration provided by New GM for its 27 acquisition of Old GM consisted of 10% of the post-closing outstanding shares of 28

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New GM common stock and two series of warrants, each to purchase 7.5% of the post-closing shares of New GM (collectively, the "New GM Securities").

- 661. Through an "accordion feature" in the Sale Agreement, New GM agreed that it would provide additional consideration if the aggregate amount of allowed general unsecured claims exceeded \$35 billion. In that event, New GM would be required to issue additional shares of New GM Common Stock for the benefit of the GUC Trust's beneficiaries.
- 662. As of September 30, 2014, the total amount of Allowed Claims was approximately \$31.854 billion, and the total amount of Disputed Claims was approximately \$79.5 million.
- 663. As of September 30, 2014, the GUC Trust had distributed more than 89% of the New GM Securities. After a subsequent November 12 distribution, the total assets of the GUC Trust were approximately \$773.7 million - all or nearly all o which is already slated to pay the GUC Trust's expenses and existing beneficiaries o the Trust.
- 664. But for New GM's fraudulent concealment of the defects, the Michigan Class would have filed claims against Old GM before the Bar Date.
- 665. Had the Michigan Class filed timely claims before the Bar Date, the claims would have been allowed.
- 666. New GM's concealment and suppression of the material fact of the defect in class vehicles over the first several months of its existence served to preven the filing of claims by the Class.
- 667. New GM had a duty to disclose the defect because in class vehicles the information was known and/or accessible only to New GM who had superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impacted the safety and the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class, who

- 668. Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class were unaware of these omitted material facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the concealed and/or suppressed facts. Plaintiffs' and the Michigan Class's actions were justified. New GM was in exclusive control of the material facts and such facts were not known to the public, Plaintiffs, or the Michigan Class.
- 669. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class sustained damage because they lost their chance to file a claim against Old GM and seek payment from the GUC Trust. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in their vehicles, Plaintiffs would have timely filed claims and would have recovered from the GUC Trust.
- 670. Accordingly, New GM is liable to the Michigan Class members for thei damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 671. New GM's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Michigan Class's rights and well-being to enrich New GM. New GM's conduct warrants an assessmen of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

### **COUNT XLII**

### THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY CLAIM

- 672. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 673. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are Michigan residents (the "Michigan Class").
- 674. In the Sales Agreement through which New GM acquired substantially all of the assets of New GM, New GM explicitly agreed as follows:

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From and after the Closing, [New GM] shall comply with the certification, reporting and recall requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability and Documentation Act, the Clean Air Act, the California Health and Safety Code and similar Laws, in each case, to the extent applicable in respect of vehicles and vehicle parts manufactured or distributed by [Old GM].

- 675. With the exception of the portion of the agreement that purports to immunize New GM from its own independent misconduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the Sales Agreement is a valid and binding contract.
- 676. But for New GM's covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the TREAD Act would have no application to New GM with respect to those cars and parts. That is because the TREAD Act on its face imposes reporting and recall obligations only on the "manufacturers" of a vehicle. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c).
- 677. Because New GM agreed to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to vehicles manufactured by Old GM, New GM agreed to (among other things): (a) make quarterly submissions to NHTSA of "early warning reporting" data, including incidents involving property damage, warranty claims, consumer complaints, and field reports concerning failure, malfunction, lack of durability or other performance issues. See 49 U.S.C. § 30166(m)(3); 49 C.F.R. § 579.21; (b) retain for five years all underlying records on which the early warning reports are based and all records containing information on malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety. See 49 C.F.R. §§ 576.5 to 576.6; and (c) take immediate remedial action if it knows or should know that a safety defect exists including notifying NHTSA and consumers and ordering a recall if necessary. See 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c); 49 C.F.R. § 573.6(b)-(c); 49 C.F.R. §§ 577.5(a), 577.7(a).

- 678. Plaintiffs, as owners and lessors of vehicles and parts manufactured by Old GM, are the clear intended beneficiaries of New GM's agreement to comply with the TREAD Act. Under the Sale Agreement, Plaintiffs were to receive the benefit of having a manufacturer responsible for monitoring the safety of their Old GM vehicles and making certain that any known defects would be promptly remedied.
- 679. Although the Sale Order which consummated New GM's purchase of Old GM purported to give New GM immunity from claims concerning vehicles or parts made by Old GM, the bankruptcy court recently ruled that provision to be unenforceable, and that New GM can be held liable for its own post-bankruptcy sale conduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM. Therefore, that provision of the Sale Order and related provisions of the Sale Agreement cannot be read to bar Plaintiffs' third-party beneficiary claim as it is based solely on New GM's post-sale breaches of the promise it made in the Sale Agreement.
- 680. New GM breached its covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to the class vehicles, as it failed to take action to remediate the defects at any time, up to the present.
- 681. Plaintiffs and the Michigan Class were damaged as a result of New GM's breach. Because of New GM's failure to timely remedy the defect in class vehicles, the value of Old GM class vehicles has diminished in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### COUNT XLIII

### UNJUST ENRICHMENT

- 682. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 683. This claim is brought on behalf of members of the Michigan Class who purchased New GM vehicles, or Certified Pre-Owned GM vehicles in the time period after New GM came into existence, and who purchased or leased class vehicles in the

time period before New GM came into existence, which cars were still on the road after New GM came into existence (the "Michigan Unjust Enrichment Class"). 2 3 684. New GM has received and retained a benefit from the Plaintiffs and inequity has resulted. 4 5 685. New GM has benefitted from selling and leasing defective cars, including Certified Pre-Owned cars, whose value was artificially inflated by New 7 GM's concealment of defect issues that plagued the class vehicles for more than they 8 were worth, at a profit, and Plaintiffs have overpaid for the cars and been forced to pay other costs. 9 10 686. With respect to the class vehicles purchased before New GM came into 11 existence that were still on the road after New GM came into existence and as to 12 which New GM had unjustly and unlawfully determined not to recall, New GM benefitted by avoiding the costs of a recall and other lawsuits, and further benefitted 13 14 from its statements about the success of New GM. 15 687. Thus, all Michigan Unjust Enrichment Class Members conferred a benefit on New GM. 16 17 688. It is inequitable for New GM to retain these benefits. 18 689. Plaintiffs were not aware about the true facts about class vehicles, and did not benefit from GM's conduct. 19 20 690. New GM knowingly accepted the benefits of its unjust conduct. 2.1 As a result of New GM's conduct, the amount of its unjust enrichment should be 22 disgorged, in an amount according to proof. 23 //// -24 //// 25 //// 26 //// 27 ////

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Montana 1 **COUNT XLIV** 2 VIOLATION OF MONTANA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AND 3 CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1973 4 (MONT. CODE ANN. § 30-14-101, et seq.) 5 691. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though 6 fully set forth herein. 692. This claim is brought only on behalf of Nationwide Class Members who 8 are Montana residents (the "Montana Class"). 693. New GM, Plaintiffs and the Montana Class are "persons" within the 10 meaning of MONT. CODE ANN. § 30-14-102(6). 11 694. Montana Class Members are "consumer[s]" under MONT. CODE 12 13 ANN. § 30-14- 102(1). 695. The sale or lease of the class vehicles to Montana Class Members 14 occurred within "trade and commerce" within the meaning of MONT. CODE ANN. 15 § 30-14-102(8), and New GM committed deceptive and unfair acts in the conduct of 16 "trade and commerce" as defined in that statutory section. 17 696. The Montana Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act 18 ("Montana CPA") makes unlawful any "unfair methods of competition and unfair or 19 deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce." MONT. CODI 20 ANN, § 30-14-103. By systematically devaluing safety and concealing defects in th 21 class vehicles, New GM engaged in unfair and deceptive acts or practices in 22 violation of the Montana CPA. 23 697. In the course of its business, New GM systematically devalued safety 24 and concealed defects in class vehicles as described herein and otherwise engaged in activities with a tendency or capacity to deceive. New GM also engaged in unlawfu 26 trade practices by employing deception, deceptive acts or practices, fraud, 27 misrepresentations, or concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact 28

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27 28 with intent that others rely upon such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the sale of the class vehicles.

- 698. From the date of its inception on July 11, 2009, New GM knew of many serious defects affecting many models and years of the class vehicles, because of (i) the knowledge of Old GM personnel who remained at New GM; (ii) continuous reports, investigations, and notifications from regulatory authorities; and (iii) ongoing performance of New GM's TREAD Act obligations. New GM became aware of other serious defects and systemic safety issues years ago, but concealed all of that information.
- 699. New GM was also aware that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured and the failure to disclose and remedy defects in all the class vehicles. New GM concealed this information as well.
- 700. By failing to disclose and by actively concealing the many defects in the class vehicles, by marketing its vehicles as safe, reliable, and of high quality, and by presenting itself as a reputable manufacturer that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles after they were sold, New GM engaged in unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of the Montana CPA.
- 701. In the course of New GM's business, it willfully failed to disclose and actively concealed the dangerous risk posed by the defects discussed above. New GM compounded the deception by repeatedly asserting that the class vehicles were safe, reliable, and of high quality, and by claiming to be a reputable manufacturer that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles once they are on the road.
- 702. New GM's unfair or deceptive acts or practices were likely to and did in fact deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiffs, about the true safety and reliability of GM-branded vehicles, the quality of the GM brand, the devaluing of

- 703. New GM intentionally and knowingly misrepresented material facts regarding the class vehicles and the GM brand with an intent to mislead Plaintiffs and the Montana Class.
- 704. New GM knew or should have known that its conduct violated the Montana CPA.
- 705. As alleged above, New GM made material statements about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles that were either false or misleading.
- 706. New GM owed Plaintiffs a duty to disclose the true safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the devaluing of safety at New GM, because New GM:
- (a) Possessed exclusive knowledge that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured;
  - (b) Intentionally concealed the foregoing from Plaintiffs; and/or
- (c) Made incomplete representations about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles generally, and the valve guide defects in particular, while purposefully withholding material facts from Plaintiffs that contradicted these representations.
- 707. Because New GM fraudulently concealed the many defects in the class vehicles, the value of the class vehicles has greatly diminished. In light of the stigmattached to those vehicles by New GM's conduct, they are now worth significantly less than they otherwise would be.
- 708. New GM's systemic devaluation of safety and its concealment of the defects in the class vehicles were material to Plaintiffs and the Montana Class. A vehicle made by a reputable manufacturer of vehicles is worth more than an otherwise comparable vehicle made by a disreputable manufacturer of vehicles that

KNAPP, PETERSEN & CLARKE conceals defects rather than promptly remedies them.

- 709. Plaintiffs and the Montana Class suffered ascertainable loss caused by New GM's misrepresentations and its concealment of and failure to disclose materia information. Plaintiffs who purchased the class vehicles after the date of New GM's inception either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all. Plaintiffs did not receive the benefit of their bargain as a result of New GM's misconduct.
- 710. Regardless of time of purchase or lease, no Plaintiffs would have maintained and continued to drive their vehicles had they been aware of New GM's misconduct. By contractually assuming TREAD Act responsibilities with respect to Old GM class vehicles, New GM effectively assumed the role of manufacturer of those vehicles because the TREAD Act on its face only applies to vehicle manufacturers. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c). New GM had an ongoing duty to all GM vehicle owners to refrain from unfair and deceptive acts or practices under the Montana CPA. And, in any event, all class vehicle owners suffered ascertainable loss in the form of the diminished value of their vehicles as a result of New GM's deceptive and unfair acts and practices made in the course of New GM's business.
- 711. As a direct and proximate result of New GM's violations of the Montana CPA, Plaintiffs and the Montana Class have suffered injury-in-fact and/or actual damage.
- 712. Because the New GM's unlawful methods, acts, and practices have caused Montana Class Members to suffer an ascertainable loss of money and property, the Montana Class seeks from New GM actual damages or \$500, whichever is greater, discretionary treble damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, an order enjoining New GM's unfair, unlawful, and/or deceptive practices, and any other relief the Court considers necessary or proper, under MONT. CODE ANN. § 30-14-133.

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**COUNT XLV** 

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### FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT

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713. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

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714. This claim is brought on behalf of Nationwide Class Members who are

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Montana residents (the "Montana Class").

7 8 715. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the quality of the class vehicles.

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716. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the culture of New GM – a culture characterized by an emphasis on cost-cutting, the

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studious avoidance of quality issues, and a shoddy design process.

717. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the

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defects in the class vehicles, and that it valued cost-cutting over quality and took

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steps to ensure that its employees did not reveal known defects to regulators or

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consumers.

the vehicles.

718. New GM did so in order to boost confidence in its vehicles and falsely

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assure purchasers and lessors of its vehicles and Certified Previously Owned vehicles that New GM was a reputable manufacturer that stands behind its vehicles after they

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are sold and that its vehicles are safe and reliable. The false representations were

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material to consumers, both because they concerned the quality and safety of the

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class vehicles and because the representations played a significant role in the value of

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719. New GM had a duty to disclose the defects in the class vehicles because

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GM as of the time of its creation in 2009 and at every point thereafter, New GM had

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superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not

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known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Montana Class. New GM

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also had a duty to disclose because it made many general affirmative representations

about the safety, quality, and lack of defects in its vehicles, as set forth above, which were misleading, deceptive and incomplete without the disclosure of the additional facts set forth above regarding defects in the class vehicles. Having volunteered to provide information to Plaintiffs, GM had the duty to disclose not just the partial truth, but the entire truth. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impact the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Montana Class.

- 720. New GM actively concealed and/or suppressed these material facts, in whole or in part, to protect its profits and avoid recalls that would hurt the brand's image and cost New GM money, and it did so at the expense of Plaintiffs and the Montana Class.
- 721. On information and belief, New GM has still not made full and adequat disclosure and continues to defraud Plaintiffs and the Montana Class and conceal material information regarding defects that exist in the class vehicles.
- 722. Plaintiffs and the Montana Class were unaware of these omitted materia facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the concealed and/or suppressed facts, in that they would not have purchased cars manufactured by New GM; and/or they would not have purchased cars manufactured by Old GM in the time after New GM had come into existence and had fraudulently opted to conceal, and to misrepresent, the true facts about the vehicles; and/or would not have continued to drive their vehicles or would have taken other affirmative steps. Plaintiffs' and the Montana Class's actions were justified. New GM was in exclusive control of the material facts and such facts were not known to the public, Plaintiffs, or the Montana Class.
- 723. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Montana Class sustained damage because they own vehicles that diminished in value as a result of New GM's concealment of, and failure to timely disclose, the defects in the class vehicles and the quality issues engendered by New GM's

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corporate policies. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in the class vehicles, Plaintiffs who purchased new or Certified Previously Owned vehicles after New GM came into existence either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all; and no Plaintiffs regardless of time of purchase or lease would have maintained their vehicles.

724. The value of all Montana Class Members' vehicles has diminished as a result of New GM's fraudulent concealment of the defects which have tarnished the Corvette brand and made any reasonable consumer reluctant to purchase any of the class vehicles, let alone pay what otherwise would have been fair market value for the vehicles.

725. Accordingly, New GM is liable to the Montana Class for damages in ar amount to be proven at trial.

726. New GM's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Montana Class's rights and well-being to enrich New GM. New GM's conduct warrants an assessment of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

#### COUNT XLVI

## BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY (MONT. CODE § 30-2-314)

- 727. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as thoughfully set forth herein.
  - 728. This claim is brought only on behalf of the Montana Class.
- 729. New GM was a merchant with respect to motor vehicles under MONT. CODE § 30- 2-104(1).
- 730. Under MONT. CODE § 30-2-314, a warranty that the class vehicles were in merchantable condition was implied by law in the transactions when Plaintiffs purchased or leased their class vehicles from New GM on or after July 11,

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- 731. These vehicles, when sold and at all times thereafter, were not merchantable and are not fit for the ordinary purpose for which cars are used. Specifically, the class vehicles are inherently defective in that engines are subject to unusual premature wear and catastrophic failure.
- 732. New GM was provided notice of these issues by numerous complaints filed against it, internal investigations, and by numerous individual letters and communications sent by Plaintiffs and the Montana Class before or within a reasonable amount of time after New GM issued the recall and the allegations of vehicle defects became public.
- 733. As a direct and proximate result of New GM's breach of the warranties of merchantability, Plaintiffs and the Montana Class members have been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial.

### **COUNT XLVII**

### FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT OF THE RIGHT TO FILE A CLAIM AGAINST OLD GM IN BANKRUPTCY

- 734. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as thoughfully set forth herein.
- 735. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are Montana residents and who owned their class vehicle for at least some period of timbetween July 11, 2009 and November 30, 2009.
- 736. New GM was aware of the defects in class vehicles sold by Old GM from the moment it came into existence upon entry of the Sale Order And Sale Agreement by which New GM acquired substantially all the assets of Old GM.
- 737. The Montana Class did not receive notice of the defect in class vehicles prior to the entry of the Sale Order. No recall occurred.
- 738. In September of 2009, the bankruptcy court entered the Bar Date Order establishing November 30, 2009, as the deadline (the "Bar Date") for proof of claim

KNAPP, PETERSEN to be filed against Old GM.

- 739. Because New GM concealed its knowledge of the defect in class vehicles, the Montana Class did not receive notice of the defect prior to the passage of the Bar Date. No recall occurred.
- 740. In 2011, the bankruptcy court approved a Chapter 11 Plan under which the General Unsecured Creditors' Trust ("GUC Trust") would distribute the proceed of the bankruptcy sale to, among others, the holders of claims that were ultimately allowed.
- 741. The out-of-pocket consideration provided by New GM for its acquisition of Old GM consisted of 10% of the post-closing outstanding shares of New GM common stock and two series of warrants, each to purchase 7.5% of the post-closing shares of New GM (collectively, the "New GM Securities").
- 742. Through an "accordion feature" in the Sale Agreement, New GM agreement that it would provide additional consideration if the aggregate amount of allowed general unsecured claims exceeded \$35 billion. In that event, New GM would be required to issue additional shares of New GM Common Stock for the benefit of the GUC Trust's beneficiaries.
- 743. As of September 30, 2014, the total amount of Allowed Claims was approximately \$31.854 billion, and the total amount of Disputed Claims was approximately \$79.5 million.
- 744. As of September 30, 2014, the GUC Trust had distributed more than 89% of the New GM Securities. After a subsequent November 12 distribution, the total assets of the GUC Trust were approximately \$773.7 million all or nearly all o which is already slated to pay the GUC Trust's expenses and existing beneficiaries o the Trust.
- 745. But for New GM's fraudulent concealment of the defects, the Montana Class would have filed claims against Old GM before the Bar Date.

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746. Had the Montana Class filed timely claims before the Bar Date, the claims would have been allowed.

- 747. New GM's concealment and suppression of the material fact of the defect in class vehicles over the first several months of its existence served to preven the filing of claims by the Class.
- 748. New GM had a duty to disclose the defect in class vehicles because the information was known and/or accessible only to New GM who had superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Montana Class. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impacted the safety and the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Montana Class, who had a limited period of time in which to file a claim against the manufacturer of the vehicles, Old GM.
- 749. Plaintiffs and the Montana Class were unaware of these omitted materia facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the concealed and/or suppressed facts. Plaintiffs' and the Montana Class's actions were justified. New GN was in exclusive control of the material facts and such facts were not known to the public, Plaintiffs, or the Montana Class.
- 750. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Montana Class sustained damage because they lost their chance to file a claim against Old GM and seek payment from the GUC Trust. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in their vehicles, Plaintiffs would have timely filed claims and would have recovered from the GUC Trust.
- 751. Accordingly, New GM is liable to the Montana Class members for their damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 752. New GM's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Montana Class's rights and well-being to enrich New GM. New GM's conduct warrants an assessmen

of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

### **COUNT XLVIII**

### THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY CLAIM

- 753. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 754. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are Montana residents (the "Montana Class").
- 755. In the Sales Agreement through which New GM acquired substantially all of the assets of New GM, New GM explicitly agreed as follows:

From and after the Closing, [New GM] shall comply with the certification, reporting and recall requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability and Documentation Act, the Clean Air Act, the California Health and Safety Code and similar Laws, in each case, to the extent applicable in respect of vehicles and vehicle parts manufactured or distributed by [Old GM].

- 756. With the exception of the portion of the agreement that purports to immunize New GM from its own independent misconduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the Sales Agreement is a valid and binding contract.
- 757. But for New GM's covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the TREAD Act would have no application to New GM with respect to those cars and parts. That is because the TREAD Act on its face imposes reporting and recall obligations only on the "manufacturers" of a vehicle. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c).
- 758. Because New GM agreed to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to vehicles manufactured by Old GM, New GM agreed to (among other things): (a) make quarterly submissions to NHTSA of "early warning reporting" data, including

incidents involving property damage, warranty claims, consumer complaints, and field reports concerning failure, malfunction, lack of durability or other performance issues. See 49 U.S.C. § 30166(m)(3); 49 C.F.R. § 579.21; (b) retain for five years all underlying records on which the early warning reports are based and all records containing information on malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety. See 49 C.F.R. §§ 576.5 to 576.6; and (c) take immediate remedial action if it knows or should know that a safety defect exists - including notifying NHTSA and consumers and ordering a recall if necessary. See 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c); 49 C.F.R. § 573.6(b)-(c); 49 C.F.R. §§ 577.5(a), 577.7(a).

- 759. Plaintiffs, as owners and lessors of vehicles and parts manufactured by Old GM, are the clear intended beneficiaries of New GM's agreement to comply with the TREAD Act. Under the Sale Agreement, Plaintiffs were to receive the benefit of having a manufacturer responsible for monitoring the safety of their Old GM vehicles and making certain that any known defects would be promptly remedied.
- 760. Although the Sale Order which consummated New GM's purchase of Old GM purported to give New GM immunity from claims concerning vehicles or parts made by Old GM, the bankruptcy court recently ruled that provision to be unenforceable, and that New GM can be held liable for its own post-bankruptcy sale conduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM. Therefore, that provision of the Sale Order and related provisions of the Sale Agreement cannot be read to bar Plaintiffs' third-party beneficiary claim as it is based solely on New GM's post-sale breaches of the promise it made in the Sale Agreement.
- 761. New GM breached its covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to class vehicles, as it failed to take action to remediate the defects at any time, up to the present.
- 762. Plaintiffs and the Montana Class were damaged as a result of New GM's breach. Because of New GM's failure to timely remedy the defect in class

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vehicles, the value of the Old GM vehicles has diminished in an amount to be determined at trial.

### **COUNT XLIX**

### UNJUST ENRICHMENT

- 763. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 764. This claim is brought on behalf of members of the Montana Class who purchased New GM vehicles, or Certified Pre-Owned GM vehicles in the time period after New GM came into existence, and who purchased or leased class vehicles in the time period before New GM came into existence, which cars were still on the road after New GM came into existence (the "Montana Unjust Enrichment Class").
- 765. New GM has received and retained a benefit from the Plaintiffs and inequity has resulted.
- 766. New GM has benefitted from selling and leasing defective cars, including Certified Pre-Owned cars, whose value was artificially inflated by New GM's concealment of defect issues that plagued the class vehicles, for more than they were worth, at a profit, and Plaintiffs have overpaid for the cars and been forced to pay other costs.
- 767. With respect to the class vehicles purchased before New GM came into existence that were still on the road after New GM came into existence and as to which New GM had unjustly and unlawfully determined not to recall, New GM benefitted by avoiding the costs of a recall and other lawsuits, and further benefitted from its statements about the success of New GM.
- 768. Thus, all Montana Unjust Enrichment Class Members conferred a benefit on New GM.
  - 769. It is inequitable for New GM to retain these benefits.
- 770. Plaintiffs were not aware about the true facts about the class vehicles, and did not benefit from GM's conduct.

CSPA, including: representing that class vehicles have characteristics, uses, benefits, and qualities which they do not have; representing that class vehicles are of a particular standard, quality, and grade when they are not; representing that the subject of a transaction involving class vehicles has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not; and engaging in other unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

- 779. New GM's actions as set forth above occurred in the conduct of trade of commerce.
- 780. In the course of its business, New GM systematically devalued safety and concealed defects in the class vehicles as described herein and otherwise engaged in activities with a tendency or capacity to deceive. New GM also engaged in unlawful trade practices by employing deception, deceptive acts or practices, fraud, misrepresentations, or concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact with intent that others rely upon such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the sale of class vehicles.
- 781. From the date of its inception on July 11, 2009, New GM knew of many serious defects affecting many models and years of the class vehicles, because of (i) the knowledge of Old GM personnel who remained at New GM; (ii) continuous reports, investigations, and notifications from regulatory authorities; and (iii) ongoing performance of New GM's TREAD Act obligations. New GM became aware of other serious defects and systemic safety issues years ago, but concealed all of that information.
- 782. New GM was also aware that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured and the failure to disclose and remedy defects in all class vehicles.

  New GM concealed this information as well.

785. New GM's unfair or deceptive acts or practices were likely to and did in fact deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiffs, about the true safety and reliability of GM-branded vehicles, the quality of the GM brand, the devaluing of safety at New GM, and the true value of the class vehicles.

that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles once they are on the road.

- 786. New GM intentionally and knowingly misrepresented material facts regarding the class vehicles with an intent to mislead Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class.
- 787. New GM knew or should have known that its conduct violated the Ohio CSPA.
- 788. As alleged above, New GM made material statements about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the GM brand that were either false or misleading.
- 789. New GM owed Plaintiffs a duty to disclose the true safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the devaluing of safety at New GM, because New GM:
- (a) Possessed exclusive knowledge that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured;

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- (b) Intentionally concealed the foregoing from Plaintiffs; and/or
- (c) Made incomplete representations about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles generally, and the valve guide defects in particular, while purposefully withholding material facts from Plaintiffs that contradicted these representations.
- 790. Because New GM fraudulently concealed the many defects in the class vehicles, the value of the class vehicles has greatly diminished. In light of the stigmattached to those vehicles by New GM's conduct, they are now worth significantly less than they otherwise would be.
- 791. New GM's systemic devaluation of safety and its concealment of defects in the class vehicles were material to Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class. A vehicle made by a reputable manufacturer of vehicles is worth more than an otherwise comparable vehicle made by a disreputable manufacturer of vehicles that conceals defects rather than promptly remedies them.
- 792. Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class suffered ascertainable loss caused by New GM's misrepresentations and its concealment of and failure to disclose material information. Plaintiffs who purchased class vehicles after the date of New GM's inception either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all. Plaintiffs did not receive the benefit of their bargain as a result of New GM's misconduct.
- 793. Regardless of time of purchase or lease, no Plaintiffs would have maintained and continued to drive their vehicles had they been aware of New GM's misconduct. By contractually assuming TREAD Act responsibilities with respect to Old GM class vehicles, New GM effectively assumed the role of manufacturer of those vehicles because the TREAD Act on its face only applies to vehicle manufacturers. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c). New GM had an ongoing duty to all GM vehicle owners to refrain from unfair and deceptive acts or practices under the Ohio CSPA. And, in any event, all class vehicle owners suffered ascertainable loss in the

form of the diminished value of their vehicles as a result of New GM's deceptive and unfair acts and practices that occurred in the course of New GM's business.

- 794. As a direct and proximate result of New GM's violations of the Ohio CSPA, Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class have suffered injury-in-fact and/or actual damage.
- 795. Ohio Class Members seek punitive damages against New GM because New GM's conduct was egregious. New GM misrepresented the safety and reliability of class vehicles, concealed myriad defects in millions of GM-branded vehicles and the systemic safety issues plaguing New GM, deceived Class Members on life-or-death matters, and concealed material facts that only New GM knew, all to avoid the expense and public relations nightmare of correcting the serious flaw in its culture and in millions of GM-branded vehicles. New GM's egregious conduct warrants punitive damages.
- 796. Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class specifically do not allege herein a claim fo violation of OHIO REV. CODE § 1345.72.
- that its actions constituted unfair, deceptive, and unconscionable practices by, for example, *Mason v. Mercedes-Benz USA*, *LLC*, 2005 Ohio App. LEXIS 3911, at \*33 (S.D. Ohio Aug. 18, 2005), and *Lilly v. Hewlett-Packard Co.*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 22114, at \*17-18 (S.D. Ohio Apr. 21, 2006). Further, New GM's conduct as alleged above constitutes an act or practice previously declared to be deceptive or unconscionable by rule adopted under division (B)(2) of section 1345.05 and previously determined by Ohio courts to violate Ohio's Consumer Sales Practices Act and was committed after the decisions containing these determinations were made available for public inspection under division (A)(3) of O.R.C. § 1345.05. The applicable rule and Ohio court opinions include, but are not limited to: OAC 109:4-3-16; *Mason v. Mercedes-Benz USA*, *LLC*, 2005 Ohio 4296 (Ohio Ct. App. 2005); *Khouri v. Lewis*, Cuyahoga Common Pleas No. 342098 (2001); State ex rel.

Montgomery v. Canterbury, Franklin App. No. 98CVH054085 (2000); and Fribourg v. Vandemark (July 26, 1999), Clermont App. No CA99-02-017, unreported (PIF # 10001874).

798. As a result of the foregoing wrongful conduct of New GM, Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class have been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial, and seek all just and proper remedies, including, but not limited to, actual and statutory damages, an order enjoining New GM's deceptive and unfair conduct, treble damages, court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to OHIO REV. CODE § 1345.09, et seq.

### **COUNT LI**

### FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT

- 799. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 800. This claim is brought on behalf of Nationwide Class Members who are Ohio residents (the "Ohio Class").
- 801. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the quality of the class vehicles.
- 802. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the culture of New GM a culture characterized by an emphasis on cost-cutting, the studious avoidance of quality issues, and a shoddy design process.
- 803. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the defects in the class vehicles, and that it valued cost-cutting over quality and took steps to ensure that its employees did not reveal known defects to regulators or consumers.
- 804. New GM did so in order to boost confidence in its vehicles and falsely assure purchasers and lessors of its vehicles and Certified Previously Owned vehicle that New GM was a reputable manufacturer that stands behind its vehicles after they are sold and that its vehicles are safe and reliable. The false representations were

material to consumers, both because they concerned the quality and safety of the class vehicles and because the representations played a significant role in the value of the vehicles.

- 805. New GM had a duty to disclose the defects in the class vehicles because they were known and/or accessible only to New GM, were in fact known to New GM as of the time of its creation in 2009 and at every point thereafter, New GM had superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class. New GM also had a duty to disclose because it made many general affirmative representations about the safety, quality, and lack of defects in its vehicles, as set forth above, which were misleading, deceptive and incomplete without the disclosure of the additional facts set forth above regarding defects in the class vehicles. Having volunteered to provide information to Plaintiffs, GM had the duty to disclose not just the partial truth, but the entire truth. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impact the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class.
- 806. New GM actively concealed and/or suppressed these material facts, in whole or in part, to protect its profits and avoid recalls that would hurt the brand's image and cost New GM money, and it did so at the expense of Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class.
- 807. On information and belief, New GM has still not made full and adequat disclosure and continues to defraud Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class and conceal material information regarding defects that exist in the class vehicles.
- 808. Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class were unaware of these omitted material facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the concealed and/o suppressed facts, in that they would not have purchased cars manufactured by New GM; and/or they would not have purchased cars manufactured by Old GM in the time after New GM had come into existence and had fraudulently opted to conceal,

and to misrepresent, the true facts about the vehicles; and/or would not have continued to drive their vehicles or would have taken other affirmative steps. Plaintiffs' and the Ohio Class's actions were justified. New GM was in exclusive control of the material facts and such facts were not known to the public, Plaintiffs, or the Ohio Class.

- 809. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class sustained damage because they own vehicles that diminished in value as a result of New GM's concealment of, and failure to timely disclose, the defects in the class vehicles and the quality issues engendered by New GM's corporate policies. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in the class vehicles, Plaintiffs who purchased new or Certified Previously Owned vehicles after New GM came into existence either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all; and no Plaintiffs regardless of time of purchase or lease would have maintained their vehicles.
- 810. The value of all Ohio Class Members' vehicles has diminished as a result of New GM's fraudulent concealment of the many defects which have tarnished the Corvette brand and made any reasonable consumer reluctant to purchase any of the class vehicles, let alone pay what otherwise would have been fai market value for the vehicles.
- 811. Accordingly, New GM is liable to the Ohio Class for damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 812. New GM's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Ohio Class's rights and well-being to enrich New GM. New GM's conduct warrants an assessment of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

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COUNT LII

IMPLIED WARRANTY IN TORT

813. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though 3 fully set forth herein. 5 814. Plaintiffs bring this claim only on behalf of the Ohio Class members. The class vehicles sold or leased by New GM on or after July 11, 2009 6 contained a design defect, namely, a defective engine subject to premature wear and catastrophic failure. 8 9 816. The design, manufacturing, and/or assembly defects existed at the time the class vehicles containing the defective engine left the possession or control of New GM. 11 12 817. Based upon the dangerous product defects, New GM failed to meet the expectations of a reasonable consumer. The class vehicles failed their ordinary, 13 intended use because the engine is subject to premature unusual wear and 14 catastrophic failure. 15 818. The design defects in the vehicles were the direct and proximate cause 16 of economic damages to Plaintiffs, as well as damages incurred or to be incurred by 17 each of the Ohio Class members. 18 19 COUNT LIII FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT OF THE RIGHT TO FILE A CLAIM 20 21 AGAINST OLD GM IN BANKRUPTCY 819. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though 22 fully set forth herein. 23 820. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are Ohio 24 residents and who owned their class vehicle for at least some period of time between July 11, 2009 and November 30, 2009. 26 821. New GM was aware of the defects in class vehicles sold by Old GM 27 from the moment it came into existence upon entry of the Sale Order And Sale 28 -140-

- 822. The Ohio Class did not receive notice of the defect in class vehicles prior to the entry of the Sale Order. No recall occurred.
- 823. In September of 2009, the bankruptcy court entered the Bar Date Order, establishing November 30, 2009, as the deadline (the "Bar Date") for proof of claims to be filed against Old GM.
- 824. Because New GM concealed its knowledge of the defect in class vehicles, the Ohio Class did not receive notice of the defect prior to the passage of the Bar Date. No recall occurred.
- 825. In 2011, the bankruptcy court approved a Chapter 11 Plan under which the General Unsecured Creditors' Trust ("GUC Trust") would distribute the proceed: of the bankruptcy sale to, among others, the holders of claims that were ultimately allowed.
- 826. The out-of-pocket consideration provided by New GM for its acquisition of Old GM consisted of 10% of the post-closing outstanding shares of New GM common stock and two series of warrants, each to purchase 7.5% of the post-closing shares of New GM (collectively, the "New GM Securities").
- 827. Through an "accordion feature" in the Sale Agreement, New GM agreed that it would provide additional consideration if the aggregate amount of allowed general unsecured claims exceeded \$35 billion. In that event, New GM would be required to issue additional shares of New GM Common Stock for the benefit of the GUC Trust's beneficiaries.
- 828. As of September 30, 2014, the total amount of Allowed Claims was approximately \$31.854 billion, and the total amount of Disputed Claims was approximately \$79.5 million.
- 829. As of September 30, 2014, the GUC Trust had distributed more than 89% of the New GM Securities. After a subsequent November 12 distribution, the total assets of the GUC Trust were approximately \$773.7 million all or nearly all o

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which is already slated to pay the GUC Trust's expenses and existing beneficiaries of the Trust.

- 830. But for New GM's fraudulent concealment of the defects, the Ohio Class would have filed claims against Old GM before the Bar Date.
- 831. Had the Ohio Class filed timely claims before the Bar Date, the claims would have been allowed.
- 832. New GM's concealment and suppression of the material fact of the defect in class vehicles over the first several months of its existence served to preven the filing of claims by the Class.
- 833. New GM had a duty to disclose the defect in class vehicles because the information was known and/or accessible only to New GM who had superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impacted the safety and the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class, who had a limited period of time in which to file a claim against the manufacturer of the vehicles, Old GM.
- 834. Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class were unaware of these omitted material facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the concealed and/or suppressed facts. Plaintiffs' and the Ohio Class's actions were justified. New GM was in exclusive control of the material facts and such facts were not known to the public, Plaintiffs, or the Ohio Class.
- 835. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class sustained damage because they lost their chance to file a claim against Old GM and seek payment from the GUC Trust. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in their vehicles, Plaintiffs would have timely filed claims and would have recovered from the GUC Trust.

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836. Accordingly, New GM is liable to the Ohio Class members for their damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

837. New GM's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Ohio Class's rights and well-being to enrich New GM. New GM's conduct warrants an assessment of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

## **COUNT LIV**

## THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY CLAIM

- 838. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 839. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are Ohio residents (the "Ohio Class").
- 840. In the Sales Agreement through which New GM acquired substantially all of the assets of New GM, New GM explicitly agreed as follows:

From and after the Closing, [New GM] shall comply with the certification, reporting and recall requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability and Documentation Act, the Clean Air Act, the California Health and Safety Code and similar Laws, in each case, to the extent applicable in respect of vehicles and vehicle parts manufactured or distributed by [Old GM].

- 841. With the exception of the portion of the agreement that purports to immunize New GM from its own independent misconduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the Sales Agreement is a valid and binding contract.
- 842. But for New GM's covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the TREAD Act would have no application to New GM with respect to those cars and parts. That is because the

TREAD Act on its face imposes reporting and recall obligations only on the "manufacturers" of a vehicle. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c).

843. Because New GM agreed to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to vehicles manufactured by Old GM, New GM agreed to (among other things): (a) make quarterly submissions to NHTSA of "early warning reporting" data, including incidents involving property damage, warranty claims, consumer complaints, and field reports concerning failure, malfunction, lack of durability or other performance issues. See 49 U.S.C. § 30166(m)(3); 49 C.F.R. § 579.21; (b) retain for five years all underlying records on which the early warning reports are based and all records containing information on malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety. See 49 C.F.R. §§ 576.5 to 576.6; and (c) take immediate remedial action if it knows or should know that a safety defect exists – including notifying NHTSA and consumers and ordering a recall if necessary. See 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c); 49 C.F.R. § 573.6(b)-(c); 49 C.F.R. §§ 577.5(a), 577.7(a).

844. Plaintiffs, as owners and lessors of vehicles and parts manufactured by Old GM, are the clear intended beneficiaries of New GM's agreement to comply with the TREAD Act. Under the Sale Agreement, Plaintiffs were to receive the benefit of having a manufacturer responsible for monitoring the safety of their Old GM vehicles and making certain that any known defects would be promptly remedied.

845. Although the Sale Order which consummated New GM's purchase of Old GM purported to give New GM immunity from claims concerning vehicles or parts made by Old GM, the bankruptcy court recently ruled that provision to be unenforceable, and that New GM can be held liable for its own post-bankruptcy sale conduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM. Therefore, that provision of the Sale Order and related provisions of the Sale Agreement cannot be read to bar Plaintiffs' third-party beneficiary claim as it is based solely on New GM's post-sale breaches of the promise it made in the Sale Agreement.

- 846. New GM breached its covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to the class vehicles, as it failed to take action to remediate the defects at any time, up to the present.
- 847. Plaintiffs and the Ohio Class were damaged as a result of New GM's breach. Because of New GM's failure to timely remedy the defect in the class vehicles, the value of Old GM class vehicles has diminished in an amount to be determined at trial.

## **COUNT LV**

### UNJUST ENRICHMENT

- 848. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 849. This claim is brought on behalf of members of the Ohio Class who purchased New GM vehicles, or Certified Pre-Owned GM vehicles in the time period after New GM came into existence, and who purchased or leased class vehicles in the time period before New GM came into existence, which cars were still on the road after New GM came into existence (the "Ohio Unjust Enrichment Class").
- 850. New GM has received and retained a benefit from the Plaintiffs and inequity has resulted.
- 851. New GM has benefitted from selling and leasing defective cars, including Certified Pre-Owned cars, whose value was artificially inflated by New GM's concealment of defect issues that plagued class vehicles for more than they were worth, at a profit, and Plaintiffs have overpaid for the cars and been forced to pay other costs.
- 852. With respect to the class vehicles purchased before New GM came into existence that were still on the road after New GM came into existence and as to which New GM had unjustly and unlawfully determined not to recall, New GM benefitted by avoiding the costs of a recall and other lawsuits, and further benefitted from its statements about the success of New GM.

1	853. Thus, all Ohio Unjust Enrichment Class Members conferred a benefit or
2	New GM.
3	854. It is inequitable for New GM to retain these benefits.
4	855. Plaintiffs were not aware about the true facts about class vehicles, and
5	did not benefit from GM's conduct.
6	856. New GM knowingly accepted the benefits of its unjust conduct.
7	As a result of New GM's conduct, the amount of its unjust enrichment should be
8	disgorged, in an amount according to proof.
9	Pennsylvania
10	COUNT LVI
11	VIOLATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES
12	AND CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW
13	(73 P.S. § 201-1, et seq.)
14	857. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though
15	fully set forth herein.
16	858. This claim is brought only on behalf of Nationwide Class Members who
17	are Pennsylvania residents (the "Pennsylvania Class").
18	859. Plaintiffs purchased or leased their class vehicles primarily for personal
19	family or household purposes within the meaning of 73 P.S. § 201-9.2.
20	860. All of the acts complained of herein were perpetrated by New GM in the
21	course of trade or commerce within the meaning of 73 P.S. § 201-2(3).
22	861. The Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law
23	("Pennsylvania CPL") prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices, including:
24	(i) "Representing that goods or services have characteristics, Benefits or
25	qualities that they do not have;" (ii) "Representing that goods or services are of a
26	particular standard, quality or grade if they are of another;:" (iii) "Advertising
27	goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised;" and (iv) "Engaging in
28	any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or

misunderstanding." 73 P.S. § 201-2(4).

- 862. New GM engaged in unlawful trade practices, including representing that class vehicles have characteristics, uses, benefits, and qualities which they do no have; representing that class vehicles are of a particular standard and quality when they are not; advertising class vehicles with the intent not to sell them as advertised; and engaging in any other fraudulent or deceptive conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding.
- 863. In the course of its business, New GM systematically devalued safety and concealed defects in the class vehicles as described herein and otherwise engaged in activities with a tendency or capacity to deceive. New GM also engaged in unlawful trade practices by employing deception, deceptive acts or practices, fraud, misrepresentations, or concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact with intent that others rely upon such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the sale of class vehicles.
- 864. From the date of its inception on July 11, 2009, New GM knew of many serious defects affecting many models and years of GM-branded vehicles, because o (i) the knowledge of Old GM personnel who remained at New GM; (ii) continuous reports, investigations, and notifications from regulatory authorities; and (iii) ongoing performance of New GM's TREAD Act obligations. New GM became aware of other serious defects and systemic safety issues years ago, but concealed all of that information.
- 865. New GM was also aware that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured and the failure to disclose and remedy defects in all class vehicles.

New GM concealed this information as well.

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- 866. By failing to disclose and by actively concealing the many defects in the class vehicles, by marketing its vehicles as safe, reliable, and of high quality, and by presenting itself as a reputable manufacturer that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles after they were sold, New GM engaged in unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of the Pennsylvania CPL.
- 867. In the course of New GM's business, it willfully failed to disclose and actively concealed the dangerous risk posed by the defects discussed above. New GM compounded the deception by repeatedly asserting that GM-branded vehicles were safe, reliable, and of high quality, and by claiming to be a reputable manufacturer that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles once they are on the road.
- 868. New GM's unfair or deceptive acts or practices were likely to and did in fact deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiffs, about the true safety and reliability of GM-branded vehicles, the quality of the GM brand, the devaluing of safety at New GM, and the true value of the class vehicles.
- 869. New GM intentionally and knowingly misrepresented material facts regarding the class vehicles with an intent to mislead Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class.
- 870. New GM knew or should have known that its conduct violated the Pennsylvania CPL.
- 871. As alleged above, New GM made material statements about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the GM brand that were either false or misleading.
- 872. New GM owed Plaintiffs a duty to disclose the true safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the devaluing of safety at New GM, because New GM:
- (a) Possessed exclusive knowledge that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this

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approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured;

- Intentionally concealed the foregoing from Plaintiffs; and/or
- (c) Made incomplete representations about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles generally, and the valve guide defects in particular, while purposefully withholding material facts from Plaintiffs that contradicted these representations.
- 873. Because New GM fraudulently concealed the defects in the class vehicles, the value of the class vehicles has greatly diminished. In light of the stigma attached to those vehicles by New GM's conduct, they are now worth significantly less than they otherwise would be.
- 874. New GM's systemic devaluation of safety and its concealment of the defects in the class vehicles were material to Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class. A vehicle made by a reputable manufacturer of vehicles is worth more than an otherwise comparable vehicle made by a disreputable manufacturer of vehicles that conceals defects rather than promptly remedies them.
- 875. Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class suffered ascertainable loss caused by New GM's misrepresentations and its concealment of and failure to disclose material information. Plaintiffs who purchased class vehicles after the date of New GM's inception either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all. Plaintiffs did not receive the benefit of their bargain as a result of New GM's misconduct.
- 876. Regardless of time of purchase or lease, no Plaintiffs would have maintained and continued to drive their vehicles had they been aware of New GM's misconduct. By contractually assuming TREAD Act responsibilities with respect to Old GM class vehicles, New GM effectively assumed the role of manufacturer of those vehicles because the TREAD Act on its face only applies to vehicle manufacturers. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c). New GM had an ongoing duty to all GM

vehicle owners to refrain from unfair and deceptive acts or practices under the
Pennsylvania CPL. And, in any event, all class vehicle owners suffered ascertainab
loss in the form of the diminished value of their vehicles as a result of New GM's
deceptive and unfair acts and practices that occurred in the course of New GM's
business.

877. As a direct and proximate result of New GM's violations of the Pennsylvania CPL, Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class have suffered injury-in-fact and/or actual damage.

878. New GM is liable to Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class for treble their actual damages or \$100, whichever is greater, and attorneys' fees and costs. 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a). Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class are also entitled to an award of punitive damages given that New GM's conduct was malicious, wanton, willful, oppressive, or exhibited a reckless indifference to the rights of others.

## COUNT LVII

## FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT

- 879. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 880. This claim is brought on behalf of Nationwide Class Members who are Pennsylvania residents (the "Pennsylvania Class").
- 881. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the quality of the class vehicles.
- 882. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the culture of New GM - a culture characterized by an emphasis on cost-cutting, the studious avoidance of quality issues, and a shoddy design process.
- 883. New GM concealed and suppressed material facts concerning the defects in the class vehicles, and that it valued cost-cutting over quality and took steps to ensure that its employees did not reveal known defects to regulators or consumers.

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884. New GM did so in order to boost confidence in its vehicles and falsely assure purchasers and lessors of its vehicles and Certified Previously Owned vehicles that New GM was a reputable manufacturer that stands behind its vehicles after they are sold and that its vehicles are safe and reliable. The false representations were material to consumers, both because they concerned the quality and safety of the class vehicles and because the representations played a significant role in the value o the vehicles.

885. New GM had a duty to disclose the defects in the class vehicles because they were known and/or accessible only to New GM, were in fact known to New GM as of the time of its creation in 2009 and at every point thereafter, New GM had superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class. New GM also had a duty to disclose because it made many general affirmative representations about the safety, quality, and lack of defects in its vehicles, as set forth above, which were misleading, deceptive and incomplete without the disclosure of the additional facts set forth above regarding defects in the class vehicles. Having volunteered to provide information to Plaintiffs, GM had the duty to disclose not just the partial truth, but the entire truth. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impact the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class.

886. New GM actively concealed and/or suppressed these material facts, in whole or in part, to protect its profits and avoid recalls that would hurt the brand's image and cost New GM money, and it did so at the expense of Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class.

887. On information and belief, New GM has still not made full and adequate disclosure and continues to defraud Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class and concea material information regarding defects that exist in the class vehicles.

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889. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class sustained damage because they own vehicles that diminished in value as a result of New GM's concealment of, and failure to timely disclose, the defects in the class vehicles and the quality issues engendered by New GM's corporate policies. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in the class vehicles, Plaintiffs who purchased new or Certified Previously Owned vehicles after New GM came into existence either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all; and no Plaintiffs regardless of time of purchase or lease would have maintained their vehicles.

890. The value of all Pennsylvania Class Members' vehicles has diminished as a result of New GM's fraudulent concealment of the defects which have tarnished the Corvette brand and made any reasonable consumer reluctant to purchase any of the class vehicles, let alone pay what otherwise would have been fair market value for the vehicles.

- 891. Accordingly, New GM is liable to the Pennsylvania Class for damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 892. New GM's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Pennsylvania Class'

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rights and well-being to enrich New GM. New GM's conduct warrants an assessmen 1 of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof. COUNT LYIII 4 BREACH OF THE IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY 5 (13 PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 2314) 6 893. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though 7 fully set forth herein. 9 This claim is brought only on behalf of the Pennsylvania Class. 895. New GM is s a merchant with respect to motor vehicles. 10 A warranty that the class vehicles were in merchantable condition was 11 implied by law when New GM sold or leased the class vehicles to Plaintiffs and the 12 Pennsylvania Class on or after July 11, 2009. 13 897. These vehicles, when sold and at all times thereafter, were not in 14 merchantable condition and are not fit for the ordinary purpose for which cars are used. Specifically, the class vehicles are inherently defective in that there are defects 16 in the engine which result in premature unusual wear and catastrophic failure. 17 898. New GM was provided notice of these issues by numerous complaints 18 filed against it, by its own internal investigations, and by numerous individual letters 19 and communications sent by Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class before or within a 20 reasonable amount of time after New GM issued the recall and the allegations of 21 vehicle defects became public. 22 899. As a direct and proximate result of New GM's breach of the warranties 23 of merchantability, Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class members have been 24 damaged in an amount to be proven at trial. 25 26 //// //// //// 28

## **COUNT LIX**

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# FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT OF THE RIGHT TO FILE A CLAIM AGAINST OLD GM IN BANKRUPTCY

- 900. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 901. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are Pennsylvania residents and who owned their class vehicle for at least some period of time between July 11, 2009 and November 30, 2009.
- 902. New GM was aware of the defects in class vehicles sold by Old GM from the moment it came into existence upon entry of the Sale Order And Sale Agreement by which New GM acquired substantially all the assets of Old GM.
- 903. The Pennsylvania Class did not receive notice of the defect in class vehicles prior to the entry of the Sale Order. No recall occurred,
- 904. In September of 2009, the bankruptcy court entered the Bar Date Order, establishing November 30, 2009, as the deadline (the "Bar Date") for proof of claims to be filed against Old GM.
- 905. Because New GM concealed its knowledge of the defect in class vehicles, the Pennsylvania Class did not receive notice of the defect prior to the passage of the Bar Date. No recall occurred.
- 906. In 2011, the bankruptcy court approved a Chapter 11 Plan under which the General Unsecured Creditors' Trust ("GUC Trust") would distribute the proceed of the bankruptcy sale to, among others, the holders of claims that were ultimately allowed.
- The out-of-pocket consideration provided by New GM for its acquisition of Old GM consisted of 10% of the post-closing outstanding shares of New GM common stock and two series of warrants, each to purchase 7.5% of the post-closing shares of New GM (collectively, the "New GM Securities").

- 908. Through an "accordion feature" in the Sale Agreement, New GM agreed that it would provide additional consideration if the aggregate amount of allowed general unsecured claims exceeded \$35 billion. In that event, New GM would be required to issue additional shares of New GM Common Stock for the benefit of the GUC Trust's beneficiaries.
- 909. As of September 30, 2014, the total amount of Allowed Claims was approximately \$31.854 billion, and the total amount of Disputed Claims was approximately \$79.5 million.
- 910. As of September 30, 2014, the GUC Trust had distributed more than 89% of the New GM Securities. After a subsequent November 12 distribution, the total assets of the GUC Trust were approximately \$773.7 million all or nearly all of which is already slated to pay the GUC Trust's expenses and existing beneficiaries of the Trust.
- 911. But for New GM's fraudulent concealment of the defects, the Pennsylvania Class would have filed claims against Old GM before the Bar Date.
- 912. Had the Pennsylvania Class filed timely claims before the Bar Date, the claims would have been allowed.
- 913. New GM's concealment and suppression of the material fact of the defect in class vehicles over the first several months of its existence served to preven the filing of claims by the Class.
- 914. New GM had a duty to disclose the defects in class vehicles because the information was known and/or accessible only to New GM who had superior knowledge and access to the facts, and New GM knew the facts were not known to or reasonably discoverable by Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class. These omitted and concealed facts were material because they directly impacted the safety and the value of the class vehicles purchased or leased by Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class, who had a limited period of time in which to file a claim against the manufacturer of the vehicles, Old GM.

- 915. Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class were unaware of these omitted material facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the concealed and/or suppressed facts. Plaintiffs' and the Pennsylvania Class's actions were justified. New GM was in exclusive control of the material facts and such facts were not known to the public, Plaintiffs, or the Pennsylvania Class.
- 916. Because of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts, Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class sustained damage because they lost their chance to file a claim against Old GM and seek payment from the GUC Trust. Had they been aware of the defects that existed in their vehicles, Plaintiffs would have timely filed claims and would have recovered from the GUC Trust.
- 917. Accordingly, New GM is liable to the Pennsylvania Class members for their damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 918. New GM's acts were done maliciously, oppressively, deliberately, with intent to defraud, and in reckless disregard of Plaintiffs' and the Pennsylvania Class's rights and well-being to enrich New GM. New GM's conduct warrants an assessmen of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future, which amount is to be determined according to proof.

### COUNT LX

### THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY CLAIM

- 919. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 920. This claim is brought only on behalf of Class members who are Pennsylvania residents (the "Pennsylvania Class").
- 921. In the Sales Agreement through which New GM acquired substantially all of the assets of New GM, New GM explicitly agreed as follows:

From and after the Closing, [New GM] shall comply with the certification, reporting and recall requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, the Transportation

- 922. With the exception of the portion of the agreement that purports to immunize New GM from its own independent misconduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the Sales Agreement is a valid and binding contract.
- 923. But for New GM's covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM, the TREAD Act would have no application to New GM with respect to those cars and parts. That is because the TREAD Act on its face imposes reporting and recall obligations only on the "manufacturers" of a vehicle. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c).
- 924. Because New GM agreed to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to vehicles manufactured by Old GM, New GM agreed to (among other things): (a) make quarterly submissions to NHTSA of "early warning reporting" data, including incidents involving property damage, warranty claims, consumer complaints, and field reports concerning failure, malfunction, lack of durability or other performance issues. See 49 U.S.C. § 30166(m)(3); 49 C.F.R. § 579.21; (b) retain for five years all underlying records on which the early warning reports are based and all records containing information on malfunctions that may be related to motor vehicle safety. See 49 C.F.R. §§ 576.5 to 576.6; and (c) take immediate remedial action if it knows or should know that a safety defect exists including notifying NHTSA and consumers and ordering a recall if necessary. See 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c); 49 C.F.R. § 573.6(b)-(c); 49 C.F.R. §§ 577.5(a), 577.7(a).
- 925. Plaintiffs, as owners and lessors of vehicles and parts manufactured by Old GM, are the clear intended beneficiaries of New GM's agreement to comply with the TREAD Act. Under the Sale Agreement, Plaintiffs were to receive the benefit of having a manufacturer responsible for monitoring the safety of their Old

GM vehicles and making certain that any known defects would be promptly remedied.

- 926. Although the Sale Order which consummated New GM's purchase of Old GM purported to give New GM immunity from claims concerning vehicles or parts made by Old GM, the bankruptcy court recently ruled that provision to be unenforceable, and that New GM can be held liable for its own post-bankruptcy sale conduct with respect to cars and parts made by Old GM. Therefore, that provision of the Sale Order and related provisions of the Sale Agreement cannot be read to bar Plaintiffs' third-party beneficiary claim as it is based solely on New GM's post-sale breaches of the promise it made in the Sale Agreement.
- 927. New GM breached its covenant to comply with the TREAD Act with respect to the class vehicles, as it failed to take action to remediate the defects at any time, up to the present.
- 928. Plaintiffs and the Pennsylvania Class were damaged as a result of New GM's breach. Because of New GM's failure to timely remedy the defect in class vehicles, the value of Old GM class vehicles has diminished in an amount to be determined at trial.

## **COUNT LXI**

### UNJUST ENRICHMENT

- 929. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 930. This claim is brought on behalf of members of the Pennsylvania Class who purchased New GM vehicles, or Certified Pre-Owned GM vehicles in the time period after New GM came into existence, and who purchased or leased class vehicles in the time period before New GM came into existence, which cars were still on the road after New GM came into existence (the "Pennsylvania Unjust Enrichment Class").

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- 942. New GM is a "person" within the meaning of TENN. CODE ANN. § 47-18-103(2).
- 943. New GM's conduct complained of herein affected "trade," "commerce" or "consumer transactions" within the meaning of TENN. CODE ANN. § 47-18-103(19).
- 944. The Tennessee Consumer Protection Act ("Tennessee CPA") prohibits "[u]nfair or deceptive acts or practices affecting the conduct of any trade or commerce," including but not limited to: "Representing that goods or services have ... characteristics, [or] ... benefits ... that they do not have...;" "Representing that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality or grade... if they are of another;" and "Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised." TENN. CODE ANN. § 47-18-104. New GM violated the Tennessee CPA by engaging in unfair or deceptive acts, including representing that class vehicles have characteristics or benefits that they did not have; representing that class vehicles are of a particular standard, quality, or grade when they are of another; and advertising class vehicles with intent not to sell them as advertised.
- 945. In the course of its business, New GM systematically devalued safety and concealed defects in the class vehicles as described herein and otherwise engaged in activities with a tendency or capacity to deceive. New GM also engaged in unlawful trade practices by employing deception, deceptive acts or practices, fraud, misrepresentations, or concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact with intent that others rely upon such concealment, suppression or omission, in connection with the sale of class vehicles.
- 946. From the date of its inception on July 11, 2009, New GM knew of many serious defects affecting many models and years of GM-branded vehicles, because of (i) the knowledge of Old GM personnel who remained at New GM; (ii) continuous

KNAPP, PETERSEN & CLARKE reports, investigations, and notifications from regulatory authorities; and (iii) ongoing performance of New GM's TREAD Act obligations, as discussed above. New GM became aware of other serious defects and systemic safety issues years ago, but concealed all of that information.

- 947. New GM was also aware that it valued cost-cutting over safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured and the failure to disclose and remedy defects in all GM-branded vehicles. New GM concealed this information as well.
- 948. By failing to disclose and by actively concealing the many defects in GM-branded vehicles, by marketing its vehicles as safe, reliable, and of high quality, and by presenting itself as a reputable manufacturer that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles after they were sold, New GM engaged in unfair and deceptive business practices in violation of the Tennessee CPA.
- 949. In the course of New GM's business, it willfully failed to disclose and actively concealed the dangerous risk posed by the defects discussed above. New GM compounded the deception by repeatedly asserting that GM-branded vehicles were safe, reliable, and of high quality, and by claiming to be a reputable manufacturer that valued safety and stood behind its vehicles once they are on the road.
- 950. New GM's unfair or deceptive acts or practices were likely to and did in fact deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiffs, about the true safety and reliability of GM-branded vehicles, the quality of the GM brand, the devaluing of safety at New GM, and the true value of the class vehicles.
- 951. New GM intentionally and knowingly misrepresented material facts regarding the class vehicles with an intent to mislead Plaintiffs and the Tennessee Class.

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- New GM knew or should have known that its conduct violated the Tennessee CPA.
- 953. As alleged above, New GM made material statements about the safety and reliability of the class vehicles and the GM brand that were either false or misleading.
- New GM owed Plaintiffs a duty to disclose the true safety and reliability 954. of the class vehicles and the devaluing of safety at New GM, because New GM:
- Possessed exclusive knowledge that it valued cost-cutting over (a) safety, selected parts from the cheapest supplier regardless of quality, and actively discouraged employees from finding and flagging known safety defects, and that this approach would necessarily cause the existence of more defects in the vehicles it designed and manufactured;
  - Intentionally concealed the foregoing from Plaintiffs; and/or (b)
- Made incomplete representations about the safety and reliability (c) of the class vehicles generally, and the valve guide defects in particular, while purposefully withholding material facts from Plaintiffs that contradicted these representations.
- 955. Because New GM fraudulently concealed the defects in the class vehicles, the value of the class vehicles has greatly diminished. In light of the stigmage attached to those vehicles by New GM's conduct, they are now worth significantly less than they otherwise would be.
- 956. New GM's systemic devaluation of safety and its concealment of the defects in the class vehicles were material to Plaintiffs and the Tennessee Class. A vehicle made by a reputable manufacturer of vehicles is worth more than an otherwise comparable vehicle made by a disreputable manufacturer of vehicles that conceals defects rather than promptly remedies them.
- 957. Plaintiffs and the Tennessee Class suffered ascertainable loss caused by New GM's misrepresentations and its concealment of and failure to disclose material

information. Plaintiffs who purchased class vehicles after the date of New GM's inception either would have paid less for their vehicles or would not have purchased or leased them at all. Plaintiffs did not receive the benefit of their bargain as a result of New GM's misconduct.

958. Regardless of time of purchase or lease, no Plaintiffs would have maintained and continued to drive their vehicles had they been aware of New GM's misconduct. By contractually assuming TREAD Act responsibilities with respect to Old GM class vehicles, New GM effectively assumed the role of manufacturer of those vehicles because the TREAD Act on its face only applies to vehicle manufacturers. 49 U.S.C. § 30118(c). New GM had an ongoing duty to all GM vehicle owners to refrain from unfair and deceptive acts or practices under the Tennessee CPA. And, in any event, all class vehicle owners suffered ascertainable loss in the form of the diminished value of their vehicles as a result of New GM's deceptive and unfair acts and practices that occurred in the course of New GM's business.

959. As a direct and proximate result of New GM's violations of the Tennessee CPA, Plaintiffs and the Tennessee Class have suffered injury-in-fact and/or actual damage.

960. Pursuant to TENN. CODE § 47-18-109(a), Plaintiffs and the Tennessee Class seek monetary relief against New GM measured as actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial, treble damages as a result of New GM's willful or knowing violations, and any other just and proper relief available under the Tennessee CPA.

## COUNT LXIII

## FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT

961. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

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